AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for making additional terms available to a searching process, the method comprising:

      receiving an input string that incorporates a plurality of characters separated by at least one space;

      concatenating the plurality of characters to form at least one additional term; ~~and~~

      providing the input string and the at least one additional term to the search process; and

      <u>displaying a search result identified by the search process as being related to the at least one additional term.</u>

2. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein,

      receiving an input string comprises receiving an input string that incorporates a first set of characters separated by a space from a second set of characters; and

      concatenating comprises concatenating the first and second sets of characters.

3. (Original)   The method of claim 2, wherein the first and second sets of characters are each a single character.

4. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, and further comprising preprocessing the input string.

5. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 4, wherein preprocessing includes removing at least one extraneous character from the input string.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 1, and further comprising suppressing at least one additional term.

7. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the method is executed upon a client system.

8. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the method is executed upon a server.

9. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the string includes N words, and wherein (N-1)(N/2) additional search terms are provided to the search process based upon word adjacency.

10. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the input string is a search string.

11. (Canceled) The method of claim 1, wherein the string is a search result string.

12. (Canceled) The method of claim 1, wherein the method steps are executed as program instruction embedded on a computer readable medium.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for making additional terms available to a searching process, the method comprising:

       receiving an input string that incorporates a plurality of characters separated by at least one hyphen;

       removing the at least one hyphen to form at least one additional term; ~~and~~

       providing the input string and the at least one additional term to the searching process; and

       displaying a search result identified by the search process as being related to the at least one additional term.

14. (Canceled) The method of claim 13, wherein the method steps are executed as program instruction embedded on a computer readable medium.

15. (Currently Amended)   A method for making additional terms available to a searching process, the method comprising:

> receiving an input string that incorporates a plurality of characters separated by at least one hyphen;
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> replacing the hyphen with a space to form at least one additional term; ~~and~~
>
> providing the input string and the at least one additional term to the search engine; and
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> displaying a search result identified by the search process as being related to the at least one additional term.

16. (Canceled) The method of claim 15, wherein the method steps are executed as program instruction embedded on a computer readable medium.

17. (Currently Amended)   A method for making additional terms available to a searching process, the method comprising:

> receiving an input string that incorporates a plurality of characters separated by at least one space;
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> replacing said at least one space with a hyphen to form at least one additional term; ~~and~~
>
> providing said the input string and the at least one additional term to the searching process; and
>
> displaying a search result identified by the search process as being related to the at least one additional term.

18. (Canceled) The method of claim 17, wherein the method steps are executed as program instruction embedded on a computer readable medium.

19. (Currently Amended)   A method for making additional terms available to a searching process, the method comprising:

        receiving an input string that incorporates a plurality of terms separated by a space or a hyphen;

        generating at least one additional term by performing an operation selected from the group consisting of removing a space between the plurality of terms, removing a hyphen between the plurality of terms, replacing a space between the plurality of terms with a hyphen, and replacing a hyphen between the plurality of terms with a space; ~~and~~

        providing the input string and the at least one additional term to the searching process; and

        displaying a search result identified by the search process as being related to the at least one additional term.